

ND Senate Appropriations Hearing – November 8, 2021

Hartnett Hall Renovation – Minot State University

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Located in the heart of the Minot State University campus, Hartnett Hall fronts 11th Avenue, a main traffic artery through campus. Hartnett was constructed in two phases from 1973-1976. The 50,000 square foot building is structurally sound but has become antiquated and has not kept up with changes in education. Ventilation is poor, daylight is scarce, and the building has a claustrophobic atmosphere. Hartnett is important to MSU as a wide variety of general education courses are taught in the building (English Composition, Public Speaking, Literature, Humanities, Foreign Languages, Art, Music, etc). In addition, due to its large size and classroom infrastructure, a number of other classes are held from a variety of academic disciplines including Communication Disorders, Criminal Justice, Psychology, Radiology, and Biology. At its core, Hartnett Hall is home to several specialized academic programs and related venues such as:

- English and Journalism
- Communications
- Humanities
- Art and art studios and galleries
- Aleshire Theatre
- Broadcasting
- KMSU radio and TV studios
- Foreign Languages

Many areas of Hartnett are also used throughout the day during non-class times by Art, Broadcasting, Theatre Arts and other students for specialized projects, practice, and productions.

The project is a priority within the ND University System according to the State Board of Higher Education's priority list from the most recent Legislative session. Hartnett Hall needs a renovation more than any other academic building at MSU.

BUILDING CONDITION

- Hartnett Hall is a nearly 50 year-old board-formed concrete, multi-purpose building with diminished functionality for students, faculty and the Minot community. The building is in the heart of campus but is functionally and aesthetically not engaging nor competitive. Despite being home to several key liberal arts programs and many of MSU's general education courses, faculty and students often note the academic and learning spaces are unwelcoming, sized incorrectly, and lack modern functionality.
- Ventilation is poor and a perception exists on campus that the building is unhealthy. Natural light is scarce, and interior finishes and furniture need a major refresh.
- Student recruitment for the programs located in Hartnett are impacted by the lack of good academic and collaborative spaces as well as the dated, claustrophobic layout of the building.
- Students utilize the building well beyond traditional scheduled hours for, among other things: hands-on practice, course projects, theatre presentations and productions, student newspaper, audio & video labs, art studios, costume and scene shops, and the campus radio and TV stations.

THE PROJECT

- Predesign work by JLG Architects estimates the cost of full renovation at \$25.2 million. The building is 49,940 square feet.
- The project seeks to revitalize and modernize the building, relieve congestion, improve entrances, enhance flexibility of spaces, enhance technology, upgrade ventilation, refresh finishes, provide new furnishings, and improve daylight.
- The project was supported and on the SBHE's priority list during the previous Legislative session.
- The project addresses a large backlog of deferred maintenance at MSU.

Many recent MSU capital needs have been addressed the past several years through external fund-raising (Summer Amphitheatre renovation, MSU Dome seating renovation, Northwest Arts Center, etc) and/or student-supported bonding either directly or to match capital building fund appropriations. Outside funding for renovations the magnitude required with Hartnett Hall are difficult to procure, and why MSU is requesting ARPA funding for this project.

Thank you for your consideration.